



WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street, Room 713, Los Angeles, California 90012
(213) 974-1101
<http://ceo.lacounty.gov>

November 24, 2014

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To: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman
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From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

MOTION TO SUPPORT THE COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING ACT (SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA ITEM NO. 21-A, MEETING OF NOVEMBER 25, 2014)

Item No. 21-A on the November 25, 2014 Supplemental Agenda is a motion by Supervisor Knabe to direct the County's Washington, D.C. advocates to support the Combat Human Trafficking Act and send a five-signature letter to the Los Angeles County Congressional Delegation in support of the Act.

Combat Human Trafficking Act

The Combat Human Trafficking Act of 2014 (S. 2941) is a bill introduced by Senator Dianne Feinstein and co-sponsored by Senator Rob Portman (R-OH), which seeks to reduce the demand for human trafficking, especially the commercial sexual exploitation of children, by holding buyers accountable and making it easier for law enforcement to investigate and prosecute sex traffickers. The bill includes provisions to:

- Clarify that buyers of sex acts from trafficking victims can be prosecuted under the Federal commercial sex trafficking statute;
- Hold buyers and sellers of child sex acts accountable for their actions, even if they claim they were unaware of the age of a minor victim;
- Establish a minimum period of five years of supervised release for anyone who conspires to violated the commercial sex trafficking statute – the same time period that applies to those convicted of violating the statute;

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- Expand Federal and state wiretapping authority to cover the investigation and prosecution of any human trafficking-related offense, including but not limited to involuntary servitude, forced labor, child sexual exploitation, and child pornography;
- Require that anti-human trafficking training offered by the U.S. Department of Justice include training on effective methods to target and prosecute the buyers of sex acts from trafficked victims;
- Strengthen the rights of crime victims by providing them the right to be informed in a timely manner of any plea agreement or deferred prosecution agreement; and
- Require the Bureau of Justice Statistics to prepare annual reports on the number of sex trafficking arrests, prosecutions, and convictions in state courts.

On November 19, 2014, S. 2941 was introduced and referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee, which has not scheduled any action on the bill.

Conclusion

The Combat Human Trafficking Act (S. 2941) would enhance the investigation and prosecution of sex trafficking crimes by expanding Federal and state wiretapping authority, increasing penalties, and improving training, and also would strengthen the rights of crime victims. **This office, the District Attorney, and the Departments of Probation and Children and Family Services recommend approval of this motion to support the bill, which has provisions that are consistent with existing Board policies to support proposals to combat child sex trafficking, increase penalties for child sex trafficking crimes, improve training, and assist victims.**

We will continue to keep you advised.

WTF:RA
MR:MT:lm

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel